

School Leadership Messages	Contents				
<p>A reminder of our policies</p> <p>Please could parents be reminded of Fortismere’s dress code which is linked here. We rely on parents to work with us to ensure that students are not in breach of this code when they attend school each day.</p> <p>Our mobile phone code of conduct is linked here. We ask parents to take a moment to remind themselves of this code and to support the school in their conversations with students around phones.</p> <p>Equipment for Learning</p> <p>We’d like to congratulate students for returning to school with the right equipment for lessons. As a reminder we are sharing the list of required equipment below in case there are still some students who don’t have everything they need. Teachers are carrying out equipment checks in the first lesson of each school day. Therefore please ensure that your child has a pencil case with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. two black or dark blue pens 2. one green pen 3. a pencil and sharpener 4. a rubber 5. a ruler 6. a calculator 7. a glue stick 8. a protractor <p>Students can purchase these items from North Wing and South Wing Offices</p>	<p>Headteacher’s Weekly Roundup</p> <p>Friends of Fortismere</p> <p>Departmental News & Notices</p> <p>Safeguarding Information</p> <p>Calendar</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1013 936 1516 1146"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1013 936 1157 1041">17.09</td> <td data-bbox="1157 936 1516 1041">Online Headteacher’s Welcome Presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1013 1041 1157 1146">25.09</td> <td data-bbox="1157 1041 1516 1146">Parent & Carer Engagement Event</td> </tr> </table> <p>Fortismere Community Choir Really Needs You!</p> <p>We’re getting close to our planned start for the Community Choir on 17th September, but unless we have at least 15 people confirmed by next week, we won’t be able to go ahead with it. Without enough singers, it sadly just isn’t financially sustainable for the school to run.</p> <p>We would really love to keep the choir going, not only because it’s a wonderfully joyous thing to do in itself, but also because it adds so much to our musical community here at Fortismere.</p> <p>If you would like to give it a try please email Ms Morgan by 8th Sept at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk</p>	17.09	Online Headteacher’s Welcome Presentation	25.09	Parent & Carer Engagement Event
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Headteacher's Message

I'd like to take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new academic year to all of our Fortismere families. I trust you have all enjoyed restful summers and that you and your children are recharged and ready to embrace a new year of learning.

Following a very impressive summer of exam outcomes, we are looking forward to building on the successes our students have seen in their studies. Our priority this week has been getting everyone settled back into school routines and we have been pleased to see how well our students have made the transition from holiday mode to learning mode.

I'd like to extend a specific welcome to all parents and carers who are new to Fortismere. I can report that our Year 7 students have settled in beautifully here. They are being ably supported by the Year 7 team and their form tutors who have reported how much they have enjoyed spending time with our lively, confident and curious Year 7 students. We have been similarly excited to welcome our new Year 12 cohort to our 6th Form this week. This cohort does, of course, contain many of our own students who have returned on the back of their GCSE success, with their sights set high on A Level and BTEC study.

It's fair to say that Fortismere has got off to a flying start. In fact, our Year 13 physicists flew off this week to Cern to visit and study at the world famous research facility which houses the large Hadron Collider. We are all looking forward to hearing more about what they learnt.

As usual there will be plenty of opportunities this year for our students to engage with what inspires them. I am also looking forward to engaging you, our parent and carer community in a couple of events taking place this month. A reminder that on 17th September there will be a 'Headteacher's Welcome' presentation available to view online where I will outline more about our school: where we are now, how we educate and support the children here, how we work with families and some of the exciting things on the horizon for our school community in the coming weeks, months and years.

We will also be holding a Parent and Carer Engagement event on Thursday 25th September for those who are interested in taking part in a comprehensive series of listening and engagement activities. It will be an evening of discussion and collaboration. If you are keen on contributing your ideas and hopes for our school community and on helping us build on our shared goals and ambitions for the young people who attend our school we'd love you to be involved. More details on how to sign up for the evening will follow shortly.

In the meantime, I'd like to sign off by warmly wishing you all a restful weekend and restate how much I am looking forward to leading Fortismere through another year of learning, opportunity and achievement.

Governing Board

Parent Governor Vacancies

There are now two vacancies on the governing board for parent governors. A separate parentmail message will be sent to all parents with details of the recruitment process and supporting information on the role of a parent governor at Fortismere. Please look out for this message and if you have any questions contact the clerk to governors, Ms Sam Murray at smurray@fortismere.org.uk

Parent Teacher Association

Message from Friends of Fortismere

Welcome back and hope you had a great summer! For families new to the school (and to remind everyone else), Friends of Fortismere (FOF) is the PTA (parent teacher association) for Fortismere. All parents and carers are automatically members along with all the staff. FOF's aims are both to help raise money for the school (particularly for enrichment items and projects) and to help build and develop the parent/school/alumni community, through social events, careers opportunities and advice and generally getting involved.

The Summer Festival was a great success and we aim to build on that with more events this year, starting with the Fireworks in November (see more below) and would encourage everyone to get involved as they are able. We will be at the Y7 intro evenings and also sending out a more detailed message very soon, once we get up and running again. We will also be letting everyone know how the £15k we raised at the Summer Festival will be spent!

The FOF committee has parents covering all years other than the new Y7 (and Y13) and if anyone from those years would like to join the committee please let us know at friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk. We are all parents with jobs and so this is definitely something which you can fit in around that and is actually also fun!

The Fireworks this year are on Bonfire Night - Wednesday 5th November - and please put that in your diary now. We know that is now in the second week of half term, but hope that most people will be around. It is always an amazing event (fireworks, rides, food stalls, bar, etc.) and this time FOF plans to make it even better - so watch this space!

Thanks from the FOF Committee

Student Well-being

Place2be Services at Fortismere

Fortismere students can get support with their well-being through **Place2be**, a mental health charity working alongside schools to support young people's well being and mental health. Here at Fortismere Place2be offers two services to students. **Place2 talk** and short term **1:1 counselling**.

Place2talk is a counselling drop-in service which offers students 30 minutes to talk and share their concerns during periods 1-4 on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Each student is able to have up to six Place2talk sessions per academic year. These can be used sporadically or back to back. If someone is coming for more than 6 consecutive weeks to Place2talk we would look to assess them for 1:1 counselling.

The **1:1 counselling** we offer is short term, over 10 weeks, these sessions are held by Place2be counsellors on placement at Fortismere. Students will have 50 minutes with their counsellor every week on the same day but at different times to minimise disruption to their lessons.

To access both these services we encourage young people to **self refer** by coming to see staff in the **Place2be office** which is in the LINC building at the top of the blue stairs.

The Fortismere service is led by Nu Robinson who works on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**. The best time for students to go and book a session is during break and lunchtimes.

If parents would like more information about our services or advice on how to encourage their children to seek support please reach out to me via email nu.robinson@place2be.org.uk

You can also find more information about our services on the school website by clicking [this link](#)

Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

Latin Club

Fortismere runs a popular after-school Latin club with classes ranging from beginners to GCSE. Exam results have been consistently excellent, with this summer's candidates obtaining very high grades, 83% of GCSE candidates securing grade 9 or 8 and the majority of level 1 candidates obtaining A*.



Classes for continuing groups will re-start in the second week of term (reminders will be sent via Google Classroom) and for beginners a week later. The new after-school beginners' class will be on either Monday or Tuesday, depending which day works best for students in light of the wide range of other after-school activities on offer. **There will be introductory classes in room S28 at 3.20pm on both Monday 15th Sept and Tuesday 16th Sept** so students can come along on either day, find out about Latin Club and let us know their likely schedules once the full extra-curricular timetable has been published. We will also offer an early morning class at 8.00am on Tuesdays, starting Tues 16th Sept in room S12, for early birds and those who are unable to come to the after-school class. We look forward to meeting our new 2025 Latin Club intake.

Latin Club is open to all ages but the beginners' classes are especially beneficial for Year 7 and 8 students and for sixth formers taking classical civilisation or modern languages at A level. If students are uncertain whether they will like Latin, it's fine to come along to try it out before deciding whether to continue. Starting in Year 7 or 8 will give them plenty of time to progress to GCSE if they wish to do so but, even if they just learn some elementary Latin for a year or two, it is very beneficial for developing English vocabulary as lots of complex English words come from simple Latin words and it will also give them a really good understanding of grammar which will help with modern foreign languages. The Welsh exam board WJEC sets intermediate level 1 exams which students can take after a year or two of Latin to record a level of achievement about halfway to GCSE. For more information please email pat.dugdale@hotmail.co.uk Finally, we are always looking for new volunteers so please get in touch if you are interested or know anyone who may be able to help.

Music Department

Instrumental & Vocal Lessons Update

We are absolutely thrilled at the huge take up of instrumental lessons this term and look forward to an even busier Music Block this year! We are busy recruiting some new teachers to meet the extra demand, so if you haven't received an invoice yet, don't worry - one will be on its way soon. The deadline to pay invoices once received is 10th September or as soon as possible after receipt.

Google Classrooms will be set up over the coming week for all instruments - please remind your young people to accept promptly when they get an invitation to a classroom as this will be the way we share timetables and all important messages.

Lessons will be starting the week of 15th September, with the exception of Abel Friend's students who will start on Wednesday, 1st October. Timetables will be published on each teacher's Google Classroom from Friday, 12th September but please be aware updates are likely in the first week or two. It is really important to pay your invoice as soon as possible so that changes to timetables are minimised.

Any timetabling queries should be directed to Ms Morgan, Fortismere Music Centre Manager, on fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk and invoice enquiries to Ms Izzet on mizzet@fortismere.org.uk.

Junior Choir and Youth Choir Update

Rehearsals for the two student choirs begin this Monday 8th and will be learning pieces for performance at the Welcome Back Concert on Thursday, 2nd October. We are excited to welcome Flossie Price, an ex-Fortismere student and graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, as the new musical director for the choirs. Rehearsals for Youth Choir are 1.05 - 1.50 pm and Junior Choir will be at 3.20 - 4.20 pm (10 minutes earlier than previously advertised). Both will be in the Music Concert Hall. Please look out for an invitation to the Google Classroom if your child isn't already on there as important messages will be posted over the weekend!

Other Ensembles

We hope and expect that all students learning an instrument will join at least one of the ensembles taking place during the week. Our violin teacher Julia Singleton will be leading the Junior Strings ensemble and guitar teacher Jakub Klimiuk will be running the Guitar Ensemble - both will start on Tuesday 16th September at lunchtime. Other ensembles will be starting next week and invitations will be sent over the next few days from Google Classrooms for each ensemble.

Saturday Instrumental Lessons and School of Rock

Saturday sessions at the Music Centre will begin on Saturday 20th September. There are a few spaces left in School of Rock & Pop and a couple of slots for piano tuition left - if interested, please email Ms Morgan on fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk. Everyone who has applied for School of Rock has been sent an invoice - please request a link from Ms Morgan if you can't see yours. An email with more information about what to expect at School of Rock and what to bring will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

Drama Department

Final Auditions for Panto - Tuesday 9th September 3.30pm

Final call for anyone wanting to audition for our school pantomime '*Jack and The Beanstalk*'. Auditions will be held in **North Wing Hall on Tues 9th September at 3.30pm**. We can't wait to see you then!



Interhouse Drama Festival - Wednesday 8th October

Our annual Interhouse Drama Festival will be happening on Weds 8th October, 3.00pm-6.30pm (Open Day). This is a fantastic festival where students from across the school collaborate to create a devised performance. We are looking for 3 interested students from each form to take part!

If you are interested, show your best Drama skills today and sign up with your form tutor over the next couple of weeks!



Sport & PE

PE & Sports Extra Curricular Timetable

All after school clubs will start on Monday 8th September from 3.15-4.15 pm. Students should bring a PE kit and make sure they have informed you that they will be staying after school. All clubs are free and students just need to turn up in the correct place to meet the teacher for the club. The **Extra Curricular Timetable for this half term is attached to the Newsletter.**

Squash Club is a new addition and is starting on Monday in the Sports Hall, please encourage your child to come and have a go!

PE Kit delay - we know there is a delay with our PE Kit Supplier so please ensure your child brings a change of suitable clothes for PE lessons and clubs until their kit arrives.

Football and Netball Trials Next Week

Monday 8th Sept	Y7 Netball & Y10 Netball (Netball Courts SW) Y7 Boys Football & Y8 Boys Football (School Field)
Tuesday 9th Sept	Y8 Netball (Netball Courts) Y7/8 Girls Football & Y9/10 Girls Football (Astroturf)
Wednesday 10th Sept	Senior Football (School Field)
Thursday 11th Sept	Y9 Netball (Netball Courts)

Well done Elkie

Elkie Baker is now the National U17 Discus Champion 2025. Well done Elkie - what an amazing achievement and we are all very proud of you.



Careers & Work Related Learning

Useful Links & Resources

Welcome to the start of the new academic year! Throughout the year we'll share information, links and resources that will be useful for students but also for parents and carers. Students will have access to careers and work related learning information via Google Classrooms.

Every week we will share a **Careers Newsletter** with students and also make it available to parents and carers via the school website. For this week we are also *attaching* a copy to this newsletter.

Y13 students: UCAS Personal Statement and subject guides - [link here](#)

Want to find out more about Employability Skills? These videos from MYPATH highlight skills like confidence, leadership and teamwork - [link here](#)

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding matters or concerns please contact Ms Sullivan on safeguarding@fortismere.org.uk

Alternatively you can make a safeguarding referral using *My Voice* [use this link](#) or the QR code. You can also contact your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Manager.

